

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 21 – February 28, 2012

In this issue ...

- 2012 Primary Countdown
- Important dates coming up
- Campaign Finance Training wrapping up
- West Virginia Election Law codebook available on Amazon Kindle
- Text alerts from the Secretary of State's Office
- How you can submit an idea for the Election Connection

10 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, February 28 there will be exactly 10 weeks until the May Primary!

Important Dates Coming Up

- **February 28:** Estimate Number of Absentee Ballots (§ 3-3-11(a))
- **February 28:** Candidate Name Removed from Ballot Due to Death (Before the ballots are printed) (§ 3-5-11(b))
- **February 28:** Election Official Nominations Filed (§3-1-30)
- **March 9:** (No later than sixty days before the primary election) Emergency Order to Change Precincts (§ 3-1-7(g), 59-3-1 et. seq.)
- **March 13:** Notice of Number of Sets of Emergency Absentee Voting Commissioners Needed (§ 3-3-5c(b))
- **March 20 - May 8:** (From date of notification through day of primary election) County Clerks Fill Vacancies of Election Officials (§ 3-1-30)

Campaign Finance Training Underway

The campaign finance training offered by the Secretary of State's Office is wrapping up! The events in Martinsburg, Fairmont, Wheeling, Logan, and Charleston drew hundreds of people and drew media attention to the importance of campaign finance laws. Not only was it an opportunity to meet face to face with candidates and campaign treasurers, but everyday citizens learned what is available in the public record about campaign finance. **If you were not able to attend one of the training sessions, the video of the final event in Charleston will be available on the Secretary of State's Office website by Thursday morning.**

Election Law and Reference Manuals Available on Amazon Kindle

The West Virginia Election Law codebook is now available to download on the Amazon Kindle and devices with the free Kindle application. To download, go to Amazon.com and enter "West Virginia and Federal Election Laws 2011." The Kindle edition of the codebook costs less than a dollar, is searchable, and readers can leave bookmarks at important locations.

While the Kindle version of the codebook does not include all of the case law annotations provided in the hard copy, there are features that are exclusive to the Kindle version. The Kindle version includes the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) of 1986 as amended, the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA/Motor Voter) of 1993 as amended, and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 as amended.

Text Message Alerts from The Secretary of State's Office

You can sign up for text message alerts on the Secretary of State's website! To sign up, just click on the link at the top of the Secretary of State's website. Then, just enter your 10 digit mobile phone number and your cellular carrier. You'll get information directly from the Secretary of State's Office – sent to you before it is made public through the media or social media like Twitter and Facebook. The service is free – all we ask is that you make sure your phone is on vibrate when you go into a movie theater!

Have an idea?

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at elections@wvsos.com or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.